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IEMA Encourages People to Include Pets in Disaster Preparedness Plans

Plans, preparedness kits can keep pets safe during disasters

SPRINGFIELD – While every household should have a disaster supply kit stocked with food, water, flashlights and batteries, homes with pets need to take additional steps when planning for disasters. Whether an emergency forces people to seek shelter within the home or evacuate, advanced planning can ensure the safety of your animals.

Throughout October, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) will be working to increase awareness of pet preparedness as part of its 2012 Preparedness Campaign.

“A family’s disaster supply kit should address the needs of every family member, including your pets,” said IEMA Director Jonathon Monken. “Every emergency situation is stressful, particularly for animals. But if you have a kit and a plan, you can help your pet stay safe.”

Monken said pet owners should stock a pet preparedness kit with items such as:

- At least a three-day supply of food and water
- Extra supplies of pet medicines
- Copies of pet registration, vaccination and other important documents
- Photo of your pet in case you are separated during an emergency
- Pet first-aid kit, including cotton bandage rolls, tape, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention and isopropyl alcohol
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash
- Crate or other pet carrier in case of evacuation
- Pet litter and box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach for pet’s sanitation needs
- Toys, treats or other familiar items to help lessen your pet’s stress during the emergency

For more information about pet preparedness, visit the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.